Two New Tek Fellows Named

The Tek Fellow program honors distinguished achievements in the development or market application of technologies that have strategic significance to Tektronix. To be nominated for the program, an employee must demonstrate expert leadership in developing a world-class core technical competency or have a stellar track record in applying technical or market-applicable insight to producing successful products and business growth. To win a two-year appointment as a Tek Fellow, one must be both visible within the Tek community and recognized in the industry at large.

By meeting those criteria, Steve Sullivan and Don Craig bring to 10 the number of people recognized in the corporate-wide Tek Fellow program in the past three years. Steve has been named a Tek Fellow for substantial technical innovations in products during his many years with the Measurement Business Division. Don is being honored for the vision he has demonstrated in applying technology to the creation and development of a major strategic business growth opportunity.

The following profiles describe the contributions that led to their appointments.

Steve Sullivan, Electronics Engineer, Measurement Business Division

Steve Sullivan considers his Tek Fellow appointment an honor, but he’s quick to note that much of the credit goes to his colleagues and mentors.

“The people you work for and the people you work with make a lot of difference in how enjoyable life is and how much you get done,” he says. “I’ve been lucky to be allowed to spend time on ideas outside of my workload and see them develop.”

His greatest inspiration came from another Tek Fellow, Chuck Saxx, his manager when Steve transferred to MBD’s Advanced Development Group (ADG) five years ago as an electronics engineer. The research group specializes in CMOS transistor technology, which is used by others at Tek to manufacture large, complicated integrated circuits (ICs).

Steve, 49, joined Tek 21 years ago shortly after graduating from Oregon State University with a bachelor of science degree in mathematics. Before ADG, he had worked in the Semiconductor Test Systems (STS) division.

While with STS, Steve served as system architect for the LT1000 test system. He also wrote a program that simulates the operation of CMOS ICs before the circuits are manufactured, which is used widely by Tek IC designers. He continued his work on the simulator after moving to ADG, but then got involved in designing ICs for the oscilloscope group.

One of Steve’s most noteworthy accomplishments was contributing to the design of a FISO (Fast In, Slow Out) IC that rapidly acquires an oscilloscope waveform, then plays it back slowly for digital conversion. The FISO IC earned a patent and lowered manufacturing costs in Tek’s TDS 300 and TDS 600 digital oscilloscope product lines.

Don Craig, Engineering Manager, Digital Television, Video Systems Division

A Tek Fellow award is “nice,” says Don Craig, but the real reward is seeing a five-year mission culminate in a ship date. Don had reason to celebrate Jan. 18 when the first of Tek’s new Profile television recorders headed to Malaysia and Korea.

In 1990, Don was given an open charter to look at the future of television technology. He cast his lot with magnetic disk recording, which showed more promise than tape-based recording in terms of access times and computer-based flexibility. His next priority was applying the technology cost effectively when building digital video storage systems. That charge involved pinpointing potential bottlenecks, generating hypothetical architectures, weighing the costs of equipment, and assessing what applications customers would find useful.

Don’s thorough understanding of the needs and priorities of the television customer base — and how new digital technologies could resolve their problems — resulted in a new company thrust that aligns Tektronix with the merger of computers and video.

“The company plans to make this a major growth area,” Don says. “It’s a big opportunity for Tek to invest in.”

A Canadian born in Scotland, Don, 45, earned his television industry experience working for the Canadian Broadcasting Company in Montreal and for a television production equipment manufacturer. He joined Tektronix 10 years ago as a software project leader for the VM 700, a computer-based television test instrument. In 1986, he transferred to Wilsonville as an engineering manager for the XD88 workstations, returning to Beaverton’s Building 88 in 1990.

—By Thea Rhiannon